



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

[Docket No. TTB-2023-0005]

Proposed Information Collections; Comment Request (No. 89)

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB); Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we invite comments on the continuing or proposed information collections listed below in this document.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments on the information collections described in this document using one of these two methods:

- *Internet* — To submit comments electronically, use the comment form for this document posted on the “Regulations.gov” e-rulemaking website at <https://www.regulations.gov> within Docket No. TTB-2023-0005.
- *Mail* — Send comments to the Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 1310 G Street, NW, Box 12, Washington, DC 20005.

Please submit separate comments for each specific information collection described in this document. You must reference the information collection’s title,

form or recordkeeping requirement number (if any), and OMB control number in your comment.

You may view copies of this document, the relevant TTB forms, and any comments received at <https://www.regulations.gov> within Docket No. TTB–2022–0002. TTB has posted a link to that docket on its website at <https://www.ttb.gov/rrd/information-collection-notices>. You also may obtain paper copies of this document, the listed forms, and any comments received by contacting TTB’s Paperwork Reduction Act Officer at the addresses or telephone number shown below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Hoover, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 1310 G Street, NW., Box 12, Washington, DC 20005; 202–453–1039, ext. 135; or complete the Regulations and Rulings Division contact form at <https://www.ttb.gov/contact-rrd>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Department of the Treasury and its Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), as part of a continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed or continuing information collections described below, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Comments submitted in response to this document will be included or summarized in our request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the relevant information collection. All comments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Please do not include any confidential or inappropriate material in your comments.

We invite comments on: (a) Whether an information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the information collection's burden; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (d) ways to minimize the information collection's burden on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide the requested information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information has a valid OMB control number.

Information Collections Open for Comment

Currently, we are seeking comments on the following forms, letterhead applications or notices, recordkeeping requirements, questionnaires, or surveys:

OMB Control No. 1513-0041

Title: Distilled Spirits Plants—Records and Monthly Reports of Processing Operations.

TTB Form Number: TTB F 5110.28.

TTB REC Number: TTB REC 5110/03.

Abstract: In general, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (IRC), at 26 U.S.C. 5001, imposes a Federal excise tax on distilled spirits produced or imported into the United States. Additionally, the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5207 requires that distilled spirits plant (DSP) proprietors keep records and submit reports regarding their production, storage, denaturation, and processing operations in such form and manner as the Secretary of the Treasury (the

Secretary) by regulation prescribes. Under that IRC authority, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) regulations in 27 CFR part 19 require DSP proprietors to keep records regarding their processing operations, as well as any wholesale liquor dealer or taxpaid storeroom operations they conduct. The part 19 regulations also require DSP proprietors to submit monthly reports based on those records, using form TTB F 5110.28. TTB uses the collected information to ensure proper tax collection. TTB also aggregates the collected information to produce generalized distilled spirits statistical reports for public release.

Current Actions: There are no program changes to this information collection, and TTB is submitting for extension purposes only. As for adjustments, due to a change in agency estimates resulting from continued growth in the number of DSPs in the United States, TTB is increasing the estimated number of annual respondents, total responses, and burden hours associated with this information collection.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses and other for-profits; State and local governments.

- *Number of Respondents:* 4,900.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 12 (once per month).
- *Number of Responses:* 58,800.
- *Average Per-response Burden:* 2 hours (1 hour recordkeeping and 1 hour reporting).
- *Total Burden:* 117,600 hours.

Title: Usual and Customary Business Records Maintained by Brewers.

TTB Recordkeeping Number: TTB REC 5130/1.

Abstract: The IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5415 requires brewers to keep records in such form and containing such information as the Secretary prescribes by regulation as necessary to protect the revenue. In addition, the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5555 requires any person liable for Federal excise tax on alcohol beverages, including beer, to keep records, render statements, make returns, and comply with rules and regulations as prescribed by the Secretary. Under those IRC authorities, the TTB regulations in 27 CFR part 25 require brewers to keep usual and customary business records that allow TTB to verify various brewery activities. These activities include, for example, the quantities of raw materials received at a brewery, the quantity of beer and cereal beverages produced at and removed from a brewery taxpaid or without payment of tax, and the quantity of beer previously removed subject to tax returned to the brewery.

Current Actions: There are no program changes associated with this information collection, and TTB is submitting it for extension purposes only. As for adjustments, due to changes in agency estimates, TTB is increasing the estimated number of annual respondents and responses to this information collection.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits.

- *Number of Respondents:* 13,910.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 1 (one) per year.
- *Number of Responses:* 13,910.
- *Average Per-response and Total Burden:* This information collection

consists of usual and customary records kept by respondents during the normal

course of business, regardless of any regulatory requirement to do so. As such, under 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2), this information collection imposes no additional burden on respondents.

OMB Control No. 1513–0059

Title: Usual and Customary Business Records Relating to Tax-Free Alcohol.

TTB Recordkeeping Number: TTB REC 51503.

Abstract: In general, the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5001 imposes Federal excise tax on distilled spirits produced in or imported into the United States. However, under the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5214(a)(2) and (a)(3), distilled spirits may be withdrawn free of tax for nonbeverage purposes for use by Federal, State, and local governments, and for use by certain educational organizations and institutions, research laboratories, hospitals, blood banks, sanitariums, and nonprofit clinics, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary. In addition, the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5275 requires persons that procure or use distilled spirits withdrawn free of tax under sections 5214(a)(2) and (a)(3) to keep records and make reports regarding the receipt and use of such spirits as the Secretary requires by regulation. Under that IRC authority, in order to account for tax-free spirits and prevent their diversion to taxable beverage use, the TTB regulations in 27 CFR part 22 require tax-free alcohol users to maintain certain usual and customary business records regarding the receipt, loss, shipment, destruction, return, consignment, and inventories of such alcohol. Such accountability is necessary to protect the revenue.

Current Actions: There are no program changes or adjustments associated with this information collection, and TTB is submitting it for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses and other for-profits.

- *Number of Respondents:* 5,600.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 1 (one) per year.
- *Number of Responses:* 5,600.
- *Average Per-response and Total Burden:* This information collection

consists of usual and customary records kept by respondents during the normal course of business, regardless of any regulatory requirement to do so. As such, under 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2), this information collection imposes no additional burden on respondents.

OMB Control No. 1513–0071

Title: Tobacco Products Importer or Manufacturer—Record of Large Cigar Wholesale Prices.

TTB Recordkeeping Number: TTB REC 5230/1.

Abstract: In general, the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5701 imposes Federal excise taxes on tobacco products and cigarette papers and tubes, and, as described at 26 U.S.C. 5701(a)(2), the excise tax on large cigars is based on a percentage of the price at which such cigars are sold by the manufacturer or importer. The IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5741 also requires every manufacturer and importer of tobacco products to keep records in such manner as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe. Under those IRC authorities, the TTB regulations at 27 CFR 40.187 and 41.181 require that manufacturers and importers of large cigars maintain certain records regarding the price for which those cigars are sold. The required records are necessary as they provide a basis upon which to verify that the appropriate amount of Federal excise tax is paid on large cigars.

Current Actions: There are no program changes or adjustments associated with this information collection, and TTB is submitting it for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits.

- *Number of Respondents:* 300.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 1 (one) per year.
- *Number of Responses:* 300.
- *Average Per-response Burden:* 2.33 hours.
- *Total Burden:* 699 hours.

OMB Control No. 1513–0119

Title: Certification of Proper Cellar Treatment for Imported Natural Wine.

Abstract: Under the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5382, importers of natural wine produced after December 31, 2004, must provide the Secretary with a certification, accompanied by an affirmed laboratory analysis, that the practices and procedures used to produce the wine constitute proper cellar treatment. That IRC section also contains alternative certification requirements or exemptions for natural wine produced and imported under certain international agreements, as well as for such wine imported by an owner or affiliate of a domestic winery. In addition, the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (FAA Act) at 27 U.S.C. 205 vests the Secretary with authority to prescribe regulations regarding the identity and quality of alcohol beverages. Under those authorities, the TTB wine labeling regulations in 27 CFR part 4 and its alcohol beverage import regulations in 27 CFR part 27 implement the proper cellar treatment certification requirement for imported natural wine.

Current Actions: There are no program changes associated with this information collection at this time, and TTB is submitting it for extension purposes only. As for adjustments, due to a change in agency estimates, TTB is decreasing the number of annual responses, responses, and burden hours associated with this information collection.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses and other for-profits.

- *Number of Respondents:* 20.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 1 (one) per year.
- *Number of Responses:* 20.
- *Average Per-response Burden:* 20 minutes.
- *Total Burden:* 7 hours.

OMB Control No. 1513–0138

Title: Tax Class Statement Required on Hard Cider Labels.

Abstract: In general, the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5041 imposes six Federal excise tax rates on wine based on a wine's alcohol and carbon dioxide content, and the lowest of those rates is the hard cider tax rate, as listed in section 5041(b)(6). The IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5368(b) also provides that wine can only be removed in containers bearing the marks and labels showing compliance with chapter 51 of the IRC as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe. Beginning January 1, 2017, section 335(a) of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (PATH Act, Pub. L. 144–113) modified the definition of hard cider in IRC section 5041(g) to broaden the range of products eligible for the hard cider tax rate. However, under the authority of the Federal Alcohol Administration (FAA) Act, TTB's wine labeling regulations in 27 CFR part 4 allow the term "hard cider" to appear on the labels of products that do not meet the IRC's definition of "hard

cider” for tax purposes. In light of that difference, in order to adequately identify products eligible for the hard cider tax rate, the TTB regulations in 27 CFR parts 24 and 27 provide that the tax class statement, “Tax class 5041(b)(6),” appear on containers of domestic and imported wines, respectively, which are eligible for that tax rate. The placement of such a statement on such labels evidences compliance with the IRC’s statutory requirements and identifies the Federal excise tax rate the taxpayer is applying to the product.

Current Actions: There are no program changes associated with this information collection, and TTB is submitting it for extension purposes only. As for adjustments, due to changes in agency estimates, TTB is decreasing the estimated number of annual respondents, responses, and burden hours associated with this collection, but is increasing the estimated number of responses per respondent.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits.

- *Number of Respondents:* 20.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 2 per year.
- *Number of Responses:* 40.
- *Average Per-response Burden:* 1 hour.
- *Total Burden:* 40 hours.

OMB Control No. 1513–NEW

Title: Combined Alcohol Excise Tax Return and Simplified Operations Report—Pilot Test.

TTB Form Number: To be determined.

Abstract: Under the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5061, the Federal excise tax on distilled spirits, wine, and beer is collected on the basis of a return which taxpayers file on a semi-monthly, quarterly, or annual basis, depending on the amount of their annual tax liability (see 26 U.S.C. 5061(d)(4)). In addition, under the IRC at 26 U.S.C. 5207, 5367, and 5415, taxpayers for distilled spirits, wine, and beer respectively, must furnish reports of operations and transactions as the Secretary prescribes by regulation.

Currently, under those IRC authorities, the TTB regulations in 27 CFR chapter I require alcohol excise taxpayers to report their excise tax liability using form TTB F 5000.24, Excise Tax Return, approved under OMB No. 1513-0083. In addition, alcohol excise taxpayers must file operations reports accounting for their production, removals, losses, and certain other matters that effect their excise tax liability. Distilled spirits plant proprietors file up to four separate operations reports on a monthly basis on TTB F 5110.11, TTB F 5110.28, TTB F 5110.40, and TTB F 5110.43, approved under OMB Nos. 1513-0039, 1513-0041, 1513-0047, and 1513-0049, concerning, respectively, storage, processing, production, and denaturing operations. Wine premises proprietors file monthly operations reports on TTB F 5120.17, approved under OMB No. 1513-0053. Brewers, depending on their annual tax liability, file operations reports either on a monthly basis using TTB F 5130.9 or on a quarterly basis using TTB F 5130.9 or TTB F 5130.26, both of which are approved under OMB No. 1513-0007.

As part of TTB's efforts to lower respondent burden, the Bureau is developing a combined tax return and simplified operations report and intends to pilot the use of it with alcohol excise taxpayers. Under this pilot, alcohol excise taxpayers will submit a letterhead application to join the pilot program as an

alternative method to their filing the current tax return and operations reports under existing regulatory requirements. Once approved, taxpayers participating in the pilot program will file their combined alcohol excise return and simplified operations report under the due dates currently applicable to their excise tax returns.

The collected information will allow TTB to identify the excise taxpayer, the amount of taxes due, and the amount of payments made. Additionally, the collected information will allow TTB to identify the amount of distilled spirits, wine, or beer the taxpayer produced, removed, transferred, and disposed of during the reporting period, which effects the amount of alcohol excise tax due, while reducing the overall burden of filing separate tax returns and operations reports.

Current Actions: This is a new information collection pilot program and, as such, there are no program changes or adjustments associated with it.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits.

- *Number of Respondents:* 10,000.
- *Average Responses per Respondent:* 5.8.
- *Number of Responses:* 58,000.
- *Average Per-response Burden:* 1.0 hour.
- *Total Burden:* 58,000 hours.

Dated: March 28, 2023.

Amy R. Greenberg,

Director, Regulations and Rulings Division.

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